

Application Serial Number: 10/043,212

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 and 22-29 remain pending, and claim 21 is canceled. Claims 1, 20, 22, and 27 are currently amended. Claims 8-19, 28, and 29 are withdrawn. No claims are added.

Claims 1-7 and 20-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Wical, U.S. Patent No. 5,940,821. Regarding claim 21, that claim is now canceled, thereby rendering its rejection moot. Regarding claims 1-7, 20, and 22-27, applicant respectfully traverses that rejection.

Claim 1, as amended, describes an associating information management system that comprises a relationship management table, means for receiving specified quantities an inputted searching conditions, and search processing means for repeatedly searching for an appropriate member. Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1, so they also describe this subject matter.

Claim 20, as amended, describes an associating information management system that comprises a relationship vector table, retrieval processing means, and a relationship management table with specified characteristics. Claims 22-27 depend from claim 20, so they also describe this subject matter.

Applicants submit that the pending claims are patentable over Wical. Accordingly, withdrawal of the anticipation rejection is now solicited.

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Applicant now requests a Notice of Allowability.

If necessary, the undersigned authorizes deducting any fees that may be due from Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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